

Page 61

The newsletter of Webster Groves Public Library
Vol. 18 no. 8 — April 2023



KIDS' EVENTS

Story Time with Miss Margaret

Tuesday, April 4, 18, & 25, 10 - 10:30 a.m.

Recommended for ages 2 and up.

Saturday Story Time with Miss Margaret

Saturday, April 8, 10 - 10:30 a.m.

Recommended for ages 2 and up.

Bilingual Story Times

French: Monday, April 10, 10 - 10:30 a.m.

German: Tuesday, April 11, 3 - 3:30 p.m.

Spanish: Wednesday, April 12, 5 - 5:30 p.m.

Infant Story Time with Miss Margaret

Thursday, April 13, 10 - 10:30 a.m.

Recommended for infants to age 2.

LIFE—Library Information Family Education—Missouri Kids First

Wednesday, April 12, 6:30–7:30 p.m.

LIFE is a community based group for parents and caregivers of children to learn more about library and community services, child development and share experiences.

Legos at the Library

Saturday, April 15, 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Cooking with Miss Margaret

Saturday, April 22, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

We will be baking English muffin pizzas using the Library's Charlie Cart, a portable kitchen unit. For children ages 8 and under. A parent or caregiver must remain with the young chefs.

LIBRARY HOURS

Monday - Thursday 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Friday & Saturday 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Sunday 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.

The Library will be closed Sunday, April 9, for Easter.

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

I wanted to take a moment to introduce myself: my name is Madison Morris and I am the new Director of Webster Groves Public Library and the new author of *Page 61*. While I have many years of experience in Libraries I can't say that I have had recent experience in writing newsletters. However, when I was a kid I did write a newsletter called the "Newly News" which was a monthly subscription that I sent out to various members of my family. It was a collection of silly stories and family updates. There was even a "Dear Martha" section where I acted like Martha Stewart and fielded questions like: how do I fold a fitted sheet? The answer: you don't, you just crumple it in a ball and put it in the closet and hope for the best. The "Newly News" was a great creative outlet for 5th grade me. Back then, I dreamed about being a writer but as I grew up I found that I fit better professionally as a Librarian.

Of course, I didn't just discover the library as an adult, my parents stopped buying me books when I was 7 and started taking me to the library instead. Having a never ending supply of books from the library helped mold me into the person I am today. Books and Libraries have a certain kind of magic that I haven't discovered anywhere else. They have allowed me to step into other people's stories and taught me how to be empathetic and kind. They have taken me on adventures and taught me how to slay my own dragons. Books and libraries changed and continue to change my life—because here I am, all these years later, a Library Director who not only gets to do this amazing job in this awesome community, but I also get to write too. I guess dreams do come true!

Cheers,
Madison

APRIL IS NATIONAL POETRY MONTH

April is National Poetry Month. The Library is hosting three poetry events throughout the month to celebrate!



Appreciating Haiku

Saturday, April 8, 2 - 3 p.m.

Poet Ben Gaa will conduct a haiku workshop in conjunction with the Webster Groves Arts Commission



Children's Poetry Workshop

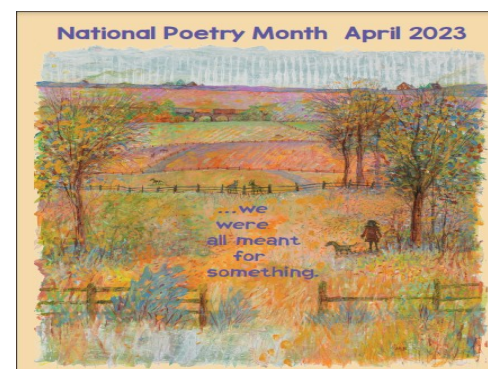
Sunday, April 23, 2 - 3 p.m.

Author and teacher Susan Grigsby will teach a Children's Poetry Workshop in conjunction with the Webster Groves Arts Commission.

Poetry Reading with Dwight Bitikofer

Friday, April 28, 7 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Local poet Dwight Bitikofer will read from his new book, *View from the Third Eye*. We will also hear readings from poets Alex Balogh and Susan Trowbridge Adams



TOP REQUESTS

1. *Lessons in Chemistry*,
by Bonnie Garmus
2. *Demon Copperhead*,
by Barbara Kingsolver
3. *Spare*,
by Prince Harry
4. *Remarkably Bright Creatures*,
by Shelby van Pelt
5. *Storm Watch*,
by C. J. Box
6. *Hello Beautiful*,
by Ann Napolitano
7. *I Have Some Questions for You*,
by Rebecca Makkai
8. *I Will Find You*,
Harlan Coben
9. *The House in the Pines*,
by Ana Reyes
10. *Pineapple Street*,
by Jenny Jackson
11. *Mad Honey*,
by Jodi Picoult
12. *Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow*,
by Gabrielle Zevin

ART AT THE LIBRARY

On the Spot Painters—local plein air artists Judy Stroup, Mary Drastal, and Sandy Haynes—will be exhibiting their works in the Library's gallery during the month of April.



You can meet the artists at the opening reception on Saturday, April 1, from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Many thanks to the generosity of new and renewing Friends members! Over the last year, your gifts allowed the Friends to support several children's activities, provide the bike repair station, and install new carpet in the Meeting Room. The Friends also help to fund the Summer Reading Programs, new large print books, and book club kits.

We are happy to welcome Sue Jagler as a new Friends Board member. She has jumped right in and will co-chair this year's Book Sale. The next Friends Board meeting is April 11 at 7 p.m. in the Library's meeting room!

BOOK DISCUSSIONS

Tuesday, April 25, at 6 p.m.



Nemesis,
by Philip Roth

Saturday, May 6, at 2 p.m.



Miracle Play,
by Susan Richards
Shreve

STATE FUNDING AND THE LIBRARY

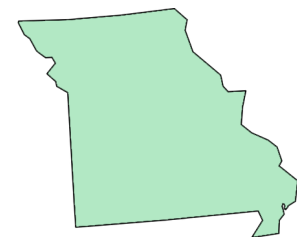
The Missouri State Legislature is trying to remove all state funding for libraries. They are not just trying cut down on the budget or to remove components of the budget, they are attempting to remove the entire line item.

Libraries are integral to our communities. They do their best to provide safe and welcoming spaces for all and work hard to provide essential services for the communities they serve. Usually the first thing someone thinks of when they think about the library is books. Are the books important? Absolutely – but libraries offer so much more than that. They have public computers, offer free Wi-Fi, and create and host educational and interesting programming for all ages. They deliver books to the homebound, do outreach at senior centers, and have meeting spaces for the public to use. Some offer job help and tax preparation services. Others have quiet study spaces, offer passport services, and do story times at their local preschools and daycares. Most host summer reading programs to keep kids reading over summer break. Overall, libraries do their absolute best to support and add to their communities. State Aid supports all of those things. It helps libraries provide relevant collections, literacy-based programming, and provide technology resources to their communities. Rural libraries in Missouri rely the most heavily on this funding to serve their communities and this budget cut will impact them drastically.

I hope that all of you reading this will do your own research on the topic, talk to other people about this topic, and consider reaching out to your representatives. You can find additional information about this topic on the Missouri Library Association's Website at molib.wildapricot.org.



WEBSTER GROVES
PUBLIC LIBRARY
301 E. Lockwood Ave.
Webster Groves, MO 63119
314.961.3784
www.wgpl.org



**MUNICIPAL
LIBRARY
CONSORTIUM**
Your Hometown Library Network
www.mlc-stl.org